

# THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S  
USERS GROUP  
NEWSLETTER  
\*\*\*\*\*  
VOLUME 3            \*\*            NUMBER 9  
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SEPTEMBER 1985

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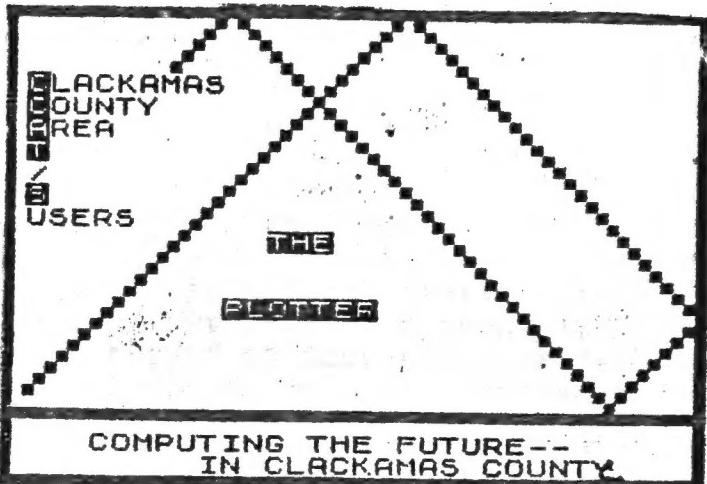
## MEETING

The Sept meeting will be:

on: SEPTEMBER 5, 1985  
at: 7:30 P. M.  
in: COMMUNITY ROOM  
FAR WEST FEDERAL S&L  
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CTR

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*SECRETARY'S  
SECRETS*

The August meeting was held on August 1, 1985, in the same location as above. Our Chairman, Dick Wagner, called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. As there were not enough members present to make a majority, it was decided to have a question and answer session to see if anyone could be helped with problems. After the session, the group broke up to look at the various hardware and software items that were there.

Dennis Jurries had his AERCO DD I/F to demo. Dick Wagner had his modular 1000 system there. It was not finished but the basic design is a CRICKET HOUSE 1000 keyboard in its own case with a connector on the back for the keyboard cable. The main computer box will sit up to 18" to the rear. It will contain the main board, the RAM board, a FORTH board, a CHARACTER generator board and the switches to control the functions. He used aluminum cases for both boxes. It looks good Dick. Maybe we'll see an article on it?

*I hope that all present felt  
that it was worth coming.*

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Summer is over and most of us are looking at all of the BACK-TO-SCHOOL sales. With the kids back in school, somewhat more time is being devoted to indoor activities.

That means more time with our friendly T/S machines. There have been a lot of us out here who have not quit for the summer. We have been working to improve our use and understanding of our computers. Just look at the BITS & BYTES column to see some of the news in this area. We hope that the list of people and companies that are supporting the T/S line will continue to grow as fast as it has the past six months. We now have a support base of over 350 different vendors and suppliers in this country, Canada and Great Britain. There is even a growing support base in Australia!

The bottom line is, if we support those who support us, the industry cannot help but grow. We want to grow with it!

TILL NEXT TIME-----

\*\*\*\*\*

### COMMENTS ON COMPUSERVE

Rod Gowen  
CIS# 70436,1542

CIS: That stands for COMPUSERVE INFORMATION SERVICE. The definition is for those of you not familiar with the service.

I am, in this column, going to let all of you know what the pulse of T/S world is doing outside of our own local area. I hope that it will help you in some small way.

&&&&&&&&&&&&&

I have spent approximately 5 hours on CIS during the 4 weeks ending August 15th. In those hours, I can honestly say that a good 80% of the messages on the TIMEX FORUM were in direct or indirect reference to disk drives. They were all mentioned, AERCO, RAMEX, TIMEX PORTUGAL and even RESEARCH SERVICE LABS.

Of the systems talked about, the only one that seems to be in wide use is the AERCO. This unit is now using ROM vers. 8.6 and is still a long way from final form. Some of the talk came in the form of speculation as to whether or not it would ever be truly "final". A lot of the messages were in reference to adapting different programs and routines to the disk.

The second most talked about system, as you would imagine, was the ZEBRA(TIMEX P) system. There are now about 25 of these units in use in the USA. There will be no more available until the middle of Sept., 1985. They are too new to know or pass judgement about their performance. So far, they seem to be everything that was promised. The one great advantage that this system has over the competition is the fact that the DOS, known as TOS (TIMEX OPERATING SYSTEM) uses the commands that are already on your 2068. That means that you don't have to learn a new set of commands. TOS uses the commands that were, until now, unused. They appear on the top row of keys. We will have to wait and see how they do in the market. The only supply at present is ZEBRA SYSTEMS in NEW YORK. They are also the only ones who guarantee these units.

As for RAMEX, that is one name that is not too well accepted on the net. It seems that they are not dealing too well with their customers.

I have only seen a couple of references to RESEARCH SERVICE LABS disk system. Both of them were to the effect that the system was close to the AERCO system. We may see more from this company.

Other items of interest on CIS included several favorable notes about LOADER IV, the MTERM add-on program. Some discussion was present about the QL.

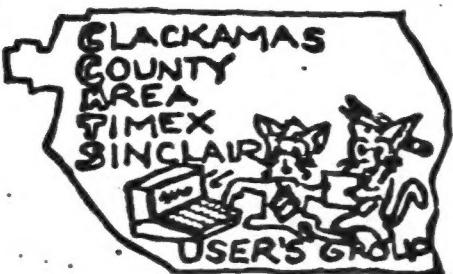
I might note here that since COMPUTER AND ELECTRONICS MAGAZINE quit, and they pulled their support off CIS, we have been lucky to have FAMILY COMPUTING step in and allow the TS users to use their forum. After the lack of interest on their part in putting TS related material in the magazine, I never would have guessed that they would be the ones to save us on CIS. We owe FAMILY COMPUTING at least a big THANK YOU!

More on CIS next time.

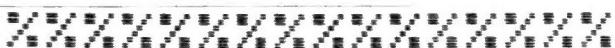
#### FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S COMPUTER

by: DICK WAGNER

The August meeting had small attendance so time was used for a help session. I must say that questions are becoming more complicated. Having computers available certainly helps with hands-on action. I want to thank those members who bring equipment to meetings. It is a great contribution to the meetings.



It is becoming obvious that some members are anxious to up-grade their computer equipment with disk drives, 80 column printers, microdrives, word processor programs and even newer Sinclair machines. It is indeed surprising what ZX80, 81 and TS1000 started. Our user group is a good information source for these things. After all, we have at least one active dealer and a computer magazine editor/publisher to provide the latest software/hardware and industry contacts and information. I hope that our members feel that it is all worth their time and small cost to continue with our group.



#### TRANSFER FILES WITHOUT RETYPING PROFILE 2068

By: ROD BOWEN

If you, like me, purchased a new copy of PROFILE 2068 with all of the modifications already in it, you have found yourself with the task of retyping everything in your files into the new copy.

NOT NECESSARY!!!

The book is not too clear on how to transfer files, so here is how to do it. These are direct from the author, THOMAS B. WOODS with many thanks.

FIRST PHASE: Load your original file, the one you have filled, and do the following.

Break into BASIC by DELETEing the left quotes and ENTERing STOP.

With BASIC LISTing on screen, enter PRINT p. This will tell you how many BYTES of data are in D\$, which is your file. Write this number down.

Then type in this line:

PRINT PEEK 23627+256\*PEEK 23628

Write down the answer you get and add 6 (six) to it. This number is the starting ADDRESS of your files. With this information you can now SAVE your files as raw BYTES by using the following direct commands:

SAVE "FN"CODE AAAAAA,BBBB

"FN" stands for FILENAME, the AAAAAA stands for the ADDRESS, the BBBB stands for the number of BYTES, all of which you found by the method above.

Once you have SAVED the raw BYTES you can now reset the 2068 by turning it off and back on.

SECOND PHASE: Now LOAD the new version of PROFILE 2068 into the 2068 and proceed as follows:

Go to BASIC as you did before and repeat the procedure to find the starting ADDRESS of your file area in memory. It will be a different number than with the first file. Write this number down for use in LOADING your files. That line again, was:

PRINT PEEK 23627+256\*PEEK 23628

As before, add 6 (six) to the answer and you have the starting ADDRESS of the area to which you want to put your files. Use the following line to LOAD your file DATA into the new version:

LOAD "FN"CODE AAAAAA,BBBB

Again, the "FN" is the FILENAME, the AAAAAA is the ADDRESS in the NEW PROFILE, and the BBBB is the number of BYTES that you SAVED from the first PROFILE.

After your DATA is LOADED, you must enter the following line:

LET P=BBBB

This will reset your file size to accept the DATA. Once that is done, type in GO TO 1 and, if you have done it right, your files will be safely in the new version of PROFILE 2068 and look at how much typing was saved!

If you have any problems, feel free to give me a call at:

(503) 655-7484



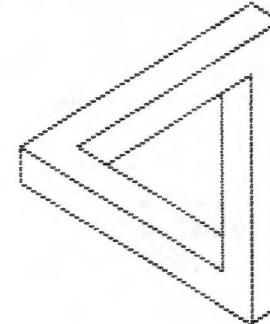
### My Favorite Triangle Dick Wagner

Here is a program short enough to make it fun. Sorry, it only works on the 2068. It is easy to follow through but just try putting it together the first time. Your eyes kind of get crossed.

Maybe you can find some diagrams like this that make good viewing so you can furnish it to the PLOTTER.

The text part is printed on a Olivetti Ink Jet Printer, using the A & J Micro Drive interface and Tasword 2 word processor. I am curious about how it will reproduce in the PLOTTER. The program part is on the 2040 printer.

### My Favorite Triangle D.F.W.



```
5 PRINT " My Favorite Triangle
          D.F.W."
20 PLOT 48,88: DRAW 0,-12: DRAW
          96,-48
30 DRAW 12,6: DRAW 0,96: DRAW
          -12,6: DRAW -96,-48
40 DRAW 84,-42: DRAW 0,60
50 PLOT 144,28: DRAW 0,84
60 PLOT 156,130: DRAW -84,-42:
          DRAW 60,-30
70 PLOT 144,112: DRAW -60,-30
```

Back again! Lots of news!

**AERCO**-If you have had a DD I/F on order, you should have or shortly should have your I/F. One of our members, Dennis Juries, has one of the first 20.

**RAMEX**-If you have had a DD I/F on order here, the news is not so good. Not only are they behind on orders, but as you read in a recent issue of *TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE*, they have many things that do not recommend them too highly. I do not think that forcing customers to buy a Quad-density drive just because they have them to sell is any way to do business.

**ZEBRA SYSTEMS**-Stuart has told us that there will be several new hardware and software items in the near future. They have already given us the KOALA PAD GRAPHICS I/F for the 2068 as well as the ZEBRA TALKER VOICE SYNTHESIZER. They have software for both of the above. One of the new items will be a software package to make your own greeting cards. These are already available for the C64 and others.

Stuart is also importing the TIMEX DD I/F SYSTEM from Portugal. He got 20 of them in and they are all gone. He said that he will probably have more of them in towards the end of September. He is not setting up any dealers until he finds out what the true cost of the units will be, including repair costs, as the units are selling under the ZEBRA name and so carry only the ZEBRA guarantee.

**A & J MICRODRIVE**-As you have probably seen or heard that the price has dropped on all models of the drives. Now you can get into a dual drive system with the printer cable and instructions for about \$275.

**EPSON**-I'm sure that you know the name. What you may not know, unless you saw it on the news, is the fact that they will be putting their first U.S. factory right in our back yard. They have broken ground for the new factory just outside of Portland in the small suburb of Tualatin. We wish them well. They will be providing about 200 new jobs to the area. The factory will be working on printers, computers and related materials.

**GESSO**-Bob Orrfelt has completed the manual for the EPROM Programmer that we recently purchased from him. It was a full year in the works and now the complete system is available. He says that they, in California groups, have many programs on EPROM. To name a few: VU FILE, VU CALC, MSCRIPT, BACKGAMMON AND CHESS. He is now going to devote most of his time to the task of finding and correct the bugs in the TS ROM. He will also add ROM to the 2068. It now has 24K. An 8K and a 16K chip. He is going to put in a second 16K chip. This will allow us to put extra built in routines. You may want to have a DOS or perhaps a new programming language (FORTH, PASCAL, CPM?) or a new set of rules to your specs. We shall see.

**SINCLAIR**-What's up with them? It looks like business as usual, even with the quiet takeover by the new major stockholder. Sir Clive retains 15% and will be President of the company, but will be mostly into R&D. The QL is now out of FCC, after almost a year, and is available from Sinclair and from American Express. I wish they would get the pocket TV over here!

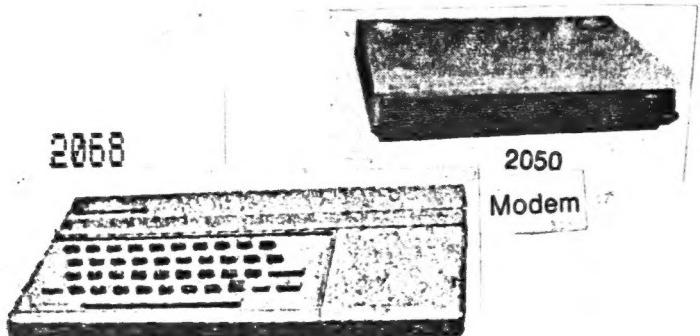
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Use the POWER  
within your reach!

**COMPUSERVE**-Those of you who are using your modems to access CIS are already aware of the fact that COMPUTER AND ELECTRONICS magazine pulled its support out from under the TS and other users when the mag quit publishing. Fortunately, even though they haven't shown much interest in putting TS programs in their magazine, FAMILY COMPUTING has put the user forums on their forum. Now we have a new home. Many thanks to FAMILY COMPUTING MAGAZINE. If you are a regular user, I suggest you log on and thank them yourself!

**TS SERVICES**-P.O. BOX 15214, RED BANK, TN 37415-0214, has a lot to offer. If you don't already know, they are the central HQ for the National TS User Group. Now through Dec. 31, 1985, they are having a membership drive. What does that mean to our you and our local group? For you it means that you can get a very good monthly newsletter, TS NEWSNOTES, as well as two (2) guides to the world of TS products, vendors, user groups and helplines. You also receive updates to the guide and are entitled to discounts from a lot of the listed vendors. All that for only \$30/yr! And what does it mean to CCAT/S? It means that for every one of you that sends in your membership dues by 12/31 /85, CCAT/S will receive a cash rebate of \$5. Make sure that you say that you want the group to get the rebate or we will not get it. If you do not want a full membership, you can go for a lesser plan which includes the newsletter and the group will get a \$3 rebate. Think about it. It would help all of us.



## GETTING MORE

### From Your 2050 Modem

MILES G. Rose

Here are a few ideas to try with your 2068 and 2050 modem. Through trial and experimentation, I found the port addresses and some of the modem calls, so I learned how to program some tricks of my own, in BASIC.

The modem seems to use only ports 115 and 119. Port 119 serves to control the modem, while 115 carries the actual data. Here are the modem calls I use. I got these from the TIMEX database on CompuServe.

OUT 119;0 Hangs up phone  
OUT 119,1 Hangs up phone,  
but doesn't stop carrier  
OUT 119, 31 Initializes phone  
for AUTO-Dial  
OUT 119,34 Starts Carrier tone  
If IN 119 = 163, the modem is  
connected

Port address 115 carries the data itself, in the form of ASCII code, which pretty well matches the character codes the 2068 uses. That being the case, it should be easy to whip up a BASIC program to handle data transfer. The routines I present here work once the modem connection has been made. Here's how to do that with SMART II.

Load and run SMART II. Once you are in the main menu, make sure that all the system parameters are established. I haven't gotten to that yet, so I do that from within the program. Make the call, and once the connection is made, and the info you need is coming, get to the main menu, and EXIT to Basic. Then you can RUN the following routines.

This will transmit data. A is the address where the character code is stored. In this case, 33280 is where Tasword stores code.

```
10 LET A=33280
15 ON ERR GOTO 60
20 PRINT CHR$ PEEK A;:OUT 115,
    PEEK A
30 PAUSE 1.5
40 LET A=A+1
50 GOTO 15
60 ON ERR RESET:LET A=A+1
70 GOTO 15
```

(cont. next page)

This routine will download data to address A, here arbitrary. The length of PAUSE here is critical. You must experiment to match it to the rate of the host.

```
10 Let A=00000
20 POKE A, IN 115
25 ON ERA GOTO 70
30 PRINT CHR$ IN 115
40 PAUSE 1.5
50 LET A=A+1
60 GOTO 20
70 ON ERA RESET: LET A=A+1
80 GOTO 20
```

There should be a lot of things to do with these routines. They could be used in some sort of integration software, to create your own BBS, or maybe even a terminal program in BASIC. GOOD LUCK!

## LIBRARY NOTES

MOON BASE ATTACK  
by: BOB EVANS

This is a short review of a new addition to our tape library. It is an arcade game that has varied outcomes depending on your timing and speed. It involves shooting down spacecraft, evading bombs, aerial combat and jumping craters. It has, in my opinion, very good graphics and excellent sound effects. The game is varied depending entirely upon your abilities. It uses the RH joystick and can be a good contest by taking turns. It keeps score on screen and moves very fast for an all-basic game. It should be in the library by the time you read this. GOOD HUNTING!

## ANOTHER TS 1000 WORD PROCESSOR

THE LIBRARY HAS A COPY OF A SYNCHRO-SETT MAGAZINE WORD PROCESSOR, CALLED "SYNTEXT". IT IS IN BASIC SO NOT FAST. PARAGRAPHS ARE FORMATTED, YOU CAN DELETE, ADD SPACE FOR CORRECTIONS, MOVE AND CONTRACT LINES, MOVE TO TEXT BEGINNING, MOVE TO END OF SCREEN, CLEAR LINES, CARRAIGE RETURN, AUTO-REPEAT, PRINT OUT ON YOUR 2040 PRINTR, AND SAVE ON TAPE.

THE PROGRAM HAS ROOM FOR 88 LINES, OR ABOUT 4 PAGES. AND YOU CAN DEFINE THE LEFT MARGIN, NUMBER OF CHARACTERS PER LINE, AND NUMBER OF LINES PER PAGE. THIS WAS TYPED WITH THIS PROGRAM.

ADS

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